TRENDS

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ASSOCIATION
OF AMERICAN
RAILROADS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, March 31, 1988 -- Freight traffic on major U.S. railroads during the week ended March 26 totaled 19.4 billion ton-miles, up 8.3 percent from the 18.0 billion carried in the comparable week of 1987.

Cumulative volume for the first 12 weeks of 1988 was an estimated 223.6 billion ton-miles carried, up 6.7 percent from the comparable period of last year.

Carloadings originated in the week ended March 26 totaled 431,063, up 7.0 percent from the corresponding week of last year, and 2.1 percent higher than the preceding week. Compared with last year, carloadings originated were up 2.3 percent in the East and 12.5 percent in the West.

Compared with the corresponding week of last year, 12 of the 20 major commodity groups increased. Coal loadings were up by 14,443 cars (13.3 percent), grain showed a gain of 10,007 cars (38.9 percent), and crushed stone, gravel and sand increased by 1,698 cars (11.9 percent). Fifteen of the 20 commodity groups increased from the preceding week.

Piggyback

Piggyback traffic for the week ended March 19 totaled 108,756 trailers and/or containers, up 4.7 percent from the comparable week of 1987.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first 11 weeks of the year was 1,177,011 trailers and/or containers, up 5.6 percent from 1987.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 3/26/88:

	Loadings in Week ended March 26, 1988		Change from Corresponding Week 1987			Change from Preceding Week	
	Cars		Cars	Percent		Cars	Percent
Grain	35,763	I	10,007	38.9	I	1,030	3.0
Other farm products	3,421	D	356	9.4	I	62	1.8
Metallic ores	13,820	D	3,432	19.9	D	426	3.0
Coal	123,143	I	14,443	13.3	I	5,105	4.3
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	15,934	I	1,698	11.9	I	1,868	13.3
Nonmetallic minerals	9,927	I	1,118	12.7	I	297	3.1
Grain mill products	10,715	D	172	1.6	I	602	6.0
Food and kindred products	11,077	I	290	2.7	I	218	2.0
Primary forest products	10,257	D	629	5.8	I	126	1.2
Lumber and wood products except furniture	8,533	D	250	2.8	I	303	3.7
Pulp, paper and allied products	12,692	D	260	2.0	I	370	3.0
Chemicals and allied products	29,196	I	758	2.7	I	591	2.1
Petroleum products	4,999	I	306	6.5	D	51	1.0
Stone, clay and glass products	11,156	I	881	8.6	I	200	1.8
Coke	5,655	I	635	12.6	I	195	3.6
Metals and products	11,073	I	1,640	17.4	I	267	2.5
Motor vehicles and equipment	21,417	D	342	1.6	D	72	0.3
Waste and scrap materials	10,106	I	1,071	11.9	D	368	3.5
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	2,584	D	137	5.0	I	122	5.0
All other carloads	79,595	I	750	1.0	D	1,727	2.1
Total Cars Loaded	431,063	I	28,019	7.0	I	8,712	2.1
Corresponding week of 1987	403,044						

	1988	1987	% Change
Total Cars Loaded (12 weeks)	4,958,636	4,679,659	I 6.0
Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):			
11 weeks ended March 19	204.2	191.6	I 6.5
Week ended March 26	19.4	18.0	I 8.3
12 Weeks cumulative	223.6	209.6	I 6.7

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